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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DINU (Romania)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/47/3, A/47/6, A/47/16 (Parts I and II) and Add.1 and A/47/32 and Add.1; A/C.5/47/46 and Add.1 and 2)

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (continued)

Major programme IX. Common support services (continued)

Major programme X. Administrative services (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee on Conferences had recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 39 (Conference and library services) (A/47/32, para. 105).

2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had noted that the reasons for the proposed revisions were not clearly stated in the documents before the General Assembly. It had been informed by representatives of the Secretary-General, however, that the primary reason had been the need to take into account the effect of the restructuring of the Secretariat. That restructuring had led to a merger of major programmes IX and X into a single major programme IX, to be known as Common support services. As could be seen from the proposed budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/47/358), that new major programme would account for slightly more than one third of the resources under the regular budget. The two major programmes together comprised six programmes and the Secretary-General proposed revisions to four of them - programmes 39, 40, 43 and 44.

3. The revisions to programme 39, Conference and library services, had been examined by the Committee on Conferences and its comments and recommendations were set forth in paragraphs 101 to 106 of its report (A/47/32). The Advisory Committee had been informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that the revisions to programme 40, Administrative direction and management, reflected organizational changes, inter alia, and emphasized the reform process. The revisions to programmes 43, General services, and 44, Services to the public, related to greater emphasis on electronic support services and the discontinuation of the commemorative medal programme, respectively.

4. The Advisory Committee had not submitted detailed substantive comments on each of the proposed revisions to the four programmes. In connection with programme 40, paragraph 40.2, however, it wished to point out that it was doubtful whether one could assume that restructuring would be a continuing feature throughout the period of the current plan. The reference in that paragraph to "policy direction and central leadership to the Secretariat, including offices away from Headquarters" should be interpreted as meaning administrative and management leadership under the authority of the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer of the Organization.

(Mr. Mselle)

5. In examining the proposed revisions to major programmes IX and X, the Advisory Committee had recalled its previous reports on the medium-term plan, including its latest report on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/617). In that report, the Advisory Committee had made detailed comments and submitted a number of recommendations on such issues as the presentation of substantive and support programmes in the medium-term plan, the role of intergovernmental bodies in examining the proposed programmes and revisions thereto, and the effect of evaluation on the quality of the medium-term plan. Those comments and recommendations had been endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 45/253, but they had not yet been taken into account in the proposed revisions to major programmes IX and X. The Advisory Committee accordingly reiterated its comments and recommendations on various aspects of the medium-term plan, including those relating to the role, quality, preparation and content of the plan. It shared the view of the many delegations which believed that the time had come for a thorough assessment of the plan and the planning process in the United Nations. In that connection, it welcomed the proposal by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) that an ad hoc technical seminar of experts should be convened in the field of programme planning of the United Nations (A/47/16 (Part II), para. 22) to assist the Secretariat in drafting the prototype of a possible new format of the medium-term plan for submission to CPC at its thirty-third session. The Advisory Committee looked forward with interest to receiving that prototype, which it would examine within the terms of its mandate.

6. Subject to those observations, the Advisory Committee recommended that the proposed revisions to major programmes IX and X should be approved by the General Assembly.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences and those of the Advisory Committee relating to programme 39 of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997.

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should approve the revisions to programmes 40, 43 and 44 of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997.

10. It was so decided.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its review of the revisions of all the major programmes of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

AGENDA ITEM 116: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP (A/46/744; A/47/560 and A/47/606)

12. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) (A/47/606), said that that report, and the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his report (A/47/560) dealt with the liquidation of the assets of UNIIMOG. As indicated in paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report, there was an unutilized balance of $36,807,802 in the UNIIMOG Special Account. The Secretary-General proposed that the unencumbered balance of $19,596,389 should be credited to Member States and that the amount of $17,211,413 should be retained in the Special Account pending a decision by the General Assembly regarding the proposed Peace-Keeping Reserve Fund. The Advisory Committee had no objection to those proposals. However, as indicated in paragraph 6 of its report, it noted that those amounts would be subject to further adjustment, taking into account any accrued interest and outstanding obligations.

13. The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Tomás Ramos (Spain) would conduct informal consultations on the item.

14. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that, as no dissenting views had been expressed, it would not seem necessary to hold informal consultations.

15. After a discussion in which the CHAIRMAN, Miss SHITAKHA (Kenya), Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands), Mr. INOMATA (Japan) and Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) took part, the CHAIRMAN said that he would ask the representative of Spain to draft a resolution on the item for adoption by the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 111: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/47/11)

16. Mr. KOULYK (Ukraine) said that the delegations of Ukraine and Belarus had raised a number of questions, both in their statements on the proposed scale of assessments in the Fifth Committee and during the informal consultations on the item, on which they would like the advice of the Legal Counsel. Those questions had now been circulated in writing to the members of the Committee and his delegation requested that they should be forwarded to the Legal Counsel for an opinion.

17. Mr. DEINEKO (Russian Federation) thanked the Ukrainian delegation for providing a copy of the questions, but said that the request was unacceptable to his delegation. No question had been raised, either in the report of the Comittee on Contributions or in the course of the debate, as to the status of Belarus and Ukraine as Founding Members of the United Nations. There were therefore no grounds for seeking an opinion on the matter from the Legal Counsel. The other questions raised related solely to matters of Fifth

(Mr. Deineko, Russian Federation)

Committee expertise. The Legal Counsel was normally consulted on legal matters, such as the interpretation of treaties or resolutions and decisions, not on technical aspects of the work of subsidiary bodies.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.